

The Eighty-first Annual Report
OF THE
TRUSTEES
OF THE
FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD
MASSACHUSETTS

For the Year 1933

Officers of the Free Public Library

FOR THE YEAR 1934

Trustees

Ex-officio	Terms expire January, 1936
CHARLES S. ASHLEY	Mayor of the City
ROBERT UPTON	President of the Board of Aldermen
FRED ROBINSON	President of the Common Council

Elected by the City Council

COOPER GAW,	Term expires April, 1935
W. A. ROBINSON, Jr.	Term expires April, 1935
FRANK A. MILLIKEN,	Term expires April, 1936
ALICE P. SHOCKLEY,	Term expires April, 1936
HANNAH B. ASHLEY	Term expires April, 1937
CHARLES M. HOLMES,	Term expires April, 1937

Committees

On Library—	MESSRS. MILLIKEN, GAW, and MRS. SHOCKLEY
On Buildings—	MISS ASHLEY, MESSRS. HOLMES, and ROBINSON
On Finance—	MISS ASHLEY, MESSRS. HOLMES, and ROBINSON
On Branches—	MRS. SHOCKLEY, MESSRS. GAW and ROBINSON

Librarian

GEORGE H. TRIPP

Assistant Librarian

CLEMENT L. YAEGER

Cataloguer

EDITH H. COBB

Librarian's Secretary

MINERVA F. MAXFIELD

Heads of Departments

ALICE H. TRIPP	Reference Librarian
JANE E. GARDNER	Art Librarian
ETHEL WILCOX	Children's Librarian
GRACE D. SHERMAN	Circulation
L. GERTRUDE WILCOX	Genealogical Librarian

Desk Attendants and Assistants

EDITH H. BRODHEAD	Delivery Desk
ELSIE COLLINS	Ingraham Hall
FLORENCE E. FARWELL	Catalogue and Ingraham Hall
HELEN S. KENNEDY	Accession Room and Children's Room
LENA D. PAULL	Accession and Delivery Desk
STELLA M. FERGUSON	Accession and Art Room
MARIA E. MAXFIELD	Catalogue and Art Room
ANNA CABRAL	Accession and Hospital
JANE T. THURSTON	Children's Room
MARION H. BONNER	Reference Room
LUCY M. LAGASSE	Children's Room
ABBIE F. REED	Newspapers and Magazine Room

Branches

North	AMANDA DION, MARJORIE COBB
South—	
CLAIRE RILEY, HELENE LEDOUX, CATHERINE A. CHASE	
West	CLOTILDA KOBZA

Pages

LOUISE E. KRUGER	EDWARD MURPHY
KATHLEEN U. LAWLESS	WILLIAM H. POISSON
ADA ALBIN	NORMAN F. BRITTAIN

Elevator

ALFRED MAYALL

Janitors

GEORGE SUNDERLAND	GARRISON L. OLIVER
GEORGE BRIGHTMAN	MARY WATSON

TRUSTEES' REPORT

To the Honorable, the City Council of the City of New Bedford, Mass.

The trustees present their eighty-first annual report to the City Council in the Report of the Librarian, which has been adopted by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

GEORGE H. TRIPP,

Clerk of the Board.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Free Public Library:

The Governor of New York is quoted as follows, from "A Special Message to Librarians."

"The richest asset and the final support of the state is the citizen.

The best conservation is his continual growth in mental power, character, and civic spirit.

Public libraries are essential to a democratic state because reading and study promote these great ends.

Libraries provide generous opportunities to all for richer understanding of contemporary life, and mastery of circumstances, and for greater social and civic usefulness."

Although the circulation of books has not been quite as large as last year, the interest in the various departments of the library has not lessened. The Reference, Reading, and Newspaper Rooms are full every day. The call for help in these departments is constant. Besides the assistance given to local readers, many calls come from out of town. The smaller circulation, in a way, is an encouraging sign because during all periods of business troubles and depression the taking of books from the public library shows a visible increase, such circulation being a sort of barometer indicating the increase or diminution of reading.

Another thing vitally affecting the circulation of books is the fact that our book funds were very much less than usual, so fewer books could be bought.

At the Main Desk the usual activities have been carried on successfully. It will give some idea of the insistent call for books to state that books on the waiting list have been reserved 4760 times.

Ingraham Hall, our main reading room, is often full to over-flowing with readers. More than once books in four languages have been noticed in the hands of readers.

A number of extremely valuable books have been added to our reference collection during the year. A very large number of Code Pamphlets has been received from the government.

A new book of biography, "Authors To-day and Yesterday," supplements a previous book called, "Living Authors," and has proved to be of great service.

A new book on postage stamps has recently been added with the title, "United States Postage Stamps of the Twentieth Century." There is always great demand for stamp books.

A "Shorter Oxford English Dictionary," in two volumes, which is an abridgment of the valuable Oxford Dictionary which was over forty years in the preparation, is a very useful supplement to that larger work.

Various questions asked during the year show, as usual, a wide range. Among the rather quaint subjects which evidently appeal to our readers, some one ventured to ask for potato cocoanut candy. Another question "astronomy in a mild form." Preparation for a coming event was indicated by an inquiry for the Patron Saint of the Brewer; and, How to mix drinks.

How deep can a whale go, was reminiscent of seventy-five years ago. Still further back was the request for the movements of the minuet.

On one afternoon a few of the questions asked were on these subjects;

Radio Telephone and Telegraph.
Plays for young people.
"Clifford Ashley's book."
Name of a Hindu story to illustrate a cover design.
Suggested, "Green Goddess."
Weights and Measures.
Baron Munchausen.
Guide to New York City.
Capital Punishment.
Odyssey. Prose form.
Civil Service Arithmetic.
Civil Service Laws.
Name of a story whose heroine was Legia. Ans.
"Quo Vadis."
Resumé of, "As You Like It," "King Lear."
Business forms.
Bacteriology.

Books actually distributed for circulation from the Reference Room during the year were 9447, and inter-library loans 326.

In the Art Room during the year 1059 pictures, consisting of etchings, photographs, posters, and prints were added, with mounted clippings making a total altogether in our collection of 72,632 pictures, very many of which are in constant demand. Since our collection was started the Art Librarian reports that a second generation is enjoying it. The lack of full service on the elevator somewhat diminishes the number of people who visit the Art Room, but the hours of running the elevator are planned to accommodate the greatest number possible. Just as in the library of Springfield, we find people who are singing their way out of the depression. Our song collection is used constantly. Period costumes, gardening, design, antiques, and photography are subjects which rank next in popularity. The New York Times refers to, "The part of the libraries in sustaining the morale of the country. They help to encourage the man out

of work, and help his brother to escape fear of a like economic fate. They are incidentally preparing a great section of the population for a higher level of existence. The public library may be said to be a spiritual relief agency and therefore deserving of undiminished support."

From near and distant points many inquiries have come to the Genealogical Department for help in unraveling family histories. Generally the questions have been answered from our large collection of books on American Genealogy.

From the Juvenile Department over 70,000 books were circulated. Seventh and eighth grade pupils came in large numbers to the library for reference material during the early evening. This service has been increasing greatly. Several Saturday evenings during the winter months, the Children's Librarian entertained the New Bedford Boy's Club with story hours. Book Week and Christmas were not overlooked in the successful attempts to make the room particularly attractive to the children. A story of hidden titles, written by Miss Wilcox, the Children's Librarian, proved most popular as a contest for a book prize given by the Hutchinson Book Store. "Tales from Shakespeare," was the choice of the twelve year old winner.

Many of the School Collection books had to be discarded on account of poor condition. They were replaced as far as the library was able to replace them from our depleted book funds.

Though unobtrusively, and not recognized by the public, the work performed in the Accession and Cataloguing Rooms has been carried on with efficiency.

The Lecture Hall was used to a great extent, 500 meetings having been held in that room and other rooms on the same floor which can be made available.

The Book Talks were carried on as usual at the beginning of the year, and gave satisfaction to our audiences.

The branches are continuing their useful work. The North and West Branches looked after the interests of those

sections as they were best able to do. Owing to its fortunate position the South Branch shows a very large circulation amounting to 102,413. The assistants are particularly active in ministering to the cultural and aesthetic wants of the children. Regular story hours are held, and holidays are appropriately celebrated, the Christmas festivals held in the branch being particularly noticeable. This branch reports that the police were very helpful in having overdue books returned, and helped in maintaining order among the youthful visitors.

Generous gifts of books were made by friends of that branch, especially Miss Mary Akin, Miss Mabel Hutchinson, and Miss Mary C. Prescott.

During the year several hundred books which have been discarded from library use, but still are readable, have been sent to Conservation Camps through the agency of Chaplain Macdonald of Fort Adams. The books have been very greatly appreciated by the men.

The library was able to give assistance to the Civic Betterment Association during the vacation of the School Department. The children, under proper guidance, used the room in the West Branch Library which was at the time unoccupied. Very grateful thanks were extended by those having charge of this movement.

An enthusiastic class of knitters are being accommodated in the Patent Room.

As usual the Librarian has been called on to make numerous addresses to different organizations in the city, mostly on library and literary subjects. He was also asked to speak at the winter meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club, held in Boston last January, on the subject of "The Library in the Period of Depression." A very short quotation from his remarks might be in order, "During the last few years American libraries have met two crises unexampled in their history. Both have been met with courage and devotion, and difficulties have been surmounted. The first

was the call for camp libraries. Millions of young men were being enrolled in the army, many of them being taken from their studies in colleges and technical schools. Without mental food the morale of the new army would have greatly suffered, so the call went out for books, and more books. The libraries responded at once. Money was raised in enormous amounts to equip the camp libraries and supply books; books from the libraries themselves were turned in by the hundred thousands." . . . "Twelve years after this first emergency call came the era of depression which is still in evidence. Millions of people out of work, with hunger, and even starvation, facing them, with minds ill at ease—here was an opportunity for the libraries to furnish them with something which would divert their attention from their own misfortunes, and suggest means of bettering their fortunes by opening up new avenues of employment, giving them opportunity to study along their own familiar lines, or in new by-ways of learning, also giving them cheerful and bright books which would tend to drive away melancholy and disturbing thoughts. The libraries again responded by proffering aid to those in search of these educational and recreational facilities. The reading rooms began to be crowded, books were taken out in larger numbers than ever before, all in the face of depleted budgets which in many places seriously interfered with the purchase of new books and magazines. The last year showed, the country over, a great increase in circulation amounting in the aggregate to many millions."

The Hospital service continued with its usual efficiency, 10,383 books having been circulated among the patients.

The library staff joined the N. R. A. Parade and made an effective showing, although, of course, smaller in number than the other organizations. The library had the benefit of an expert drummer — one of our janitors — whose stirring music was so much appreciated that half-way in the parade he was abstracted by someone in authority, and taken nearer the head of the column where he could help in pro-

viding the music required by the dignified members of the City Council. While bewailing his loss, the library was glad that his services were appreciated by others.

Thanks must be extended to Peter Murray, the Florist, and to his able assistant, Miss Mowatt, for the very many flowers which have been sent to the library to decorate the Main Desk. These gifts are greatly appreciated, not only by the staff but by the visitors.

I will close with a quotation from the last paragraph in my report for last year,

"I cannot close this report without paying tribute to the work of the staff and the janitor service during the year. Notwithstanding the drastic cuts which all departments have had to accept, I cannot but praise the attitude of the workers in the library in accepting graciously, and as a part of their duty in helping to balance the budget, the financial sacrifices that city workers have had to face. Their work through the year has been acceptable and worthy of great praise."

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE H. TRIPP,

GHT/M

Librarian.

APPENDIX A.

ADDITIONS BY CLASSES IN YEAR 1933
NEW TITLES

General Works	9	Literature	57
Ethics and Philosophy	19	Description and Travel	42
Religion	10	Individual Biography	63
Social Sciences	62	Collective Biography and	
Manners and Customs	1	Genealogy and Heraldry	13
Folk Lore	1	History	44
Education	17	Fiction	270
Language	6		
Science	29	Foreign Languages:	
Useful Arts	56	French	9
Medicine, Physiology and		German	1
Hygiene	10	Hebrew	30
Fine Arts	18	Portuguese	19
Music	5	Books for children	335
Amusements and Sports	14	Books for the Blind	1

APPENDIX B.

CIRCULATION, 1933

Main Collection, Adult

Classification	No. of Books	Per cent of Whole
Miscellaneous and periodicals	10,279	4.65
Philosophy	2,024	.91
Religion	1,265	.57
Sociology	4,697	2.12
Language	813	.37
Science	2,444	1.10
Useful Arts	6,929	3.13
Fine Arts	6,748	3.05
English literature	5,919	3.12
Foreign literature	987	.45
Biography	6,475	2.93
Genealogy	30	.01
History	3,723	1.68
Travel and description	6,619	2.99
English fiction	157,645	71.24
Foreign fiction	4,676	2.11

Main Collection, Juvenile

Classification		
Fairy Tales	6,692	9.48
Biography	1,325	1.88
History	1,527	2.16
Travel and description	2,168	3.07
Fiction	38,768	54.89
Miscellaneous including Bible Stories, Literature, Useful Arts	6,986	9.89
Easy Books	1,316	18.63

Books drawn for home use, Central Library, Main Collection:

Main Desk, *82,412; Ingraham Hall 123,541; Reference Room,* 9,447; Art Room,* 5,391 (Including 85 books for the Blind); Genealogical Room, 168; Teachers' Room, 314	221,273
Books circulated from Juvenile Room	70,627
Books circulated from School Collection	138,058

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY	15 p
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Books circulated from High School Library	6,038
Books circulated from Junior High Schools	18,414
Books circulated directly from Branch	
Reading Rooms	203,674
St. Luke's Hospital	10,383
Inter-library loans, Ref. R. 327, Art R. 35	
Desk, 15, Genealogical R. 5 (Borrowed 3)	382

Total circulation of books	668,849
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*See also Inter-library loans in this table.

Pictures loaned: Art Department,	63,668
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GENERAL STATISTICS FOR 1933

Books added

Volumes purchased, Main Collection	1,892
Volumes purchased, Juvenile Room	745
Volumes purchased, School Collection	1,760
Volumes added by gift and entered	522
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	4,919

Pamphlets added

Pamphlets purchased	33
Pamphlets added by gift	2,671
	<hr/>
	2,704

Other additions

Etchings (gift)	7
Posters (gift)	10
Photographs (gift)	9
Prints (gift)	450
Maps (gift)	185
Magazine subscriptions (gift) publishers	105
Magazine subscriptions from individuals	5
Volumes worn out and withdrawn	4,041
Volumes replaced	2,077
Net addition to the Library in volumes	878
Number of volumes in Library, December 31, 1932	194,561
Number of volumes in Library, December 31, 1933	195,439
Volumes bound including periodicals and books rebound	5,066
Periodicals in Reading Room (including 105 by gift)	371
Newspapers in Reading Room (including 8 by gift)	48

New Cards issued		
Adult		5,212
Juvenile		2,965
		<hr/>
		8,177
Total 5 year Registration, Central Borrowers, Adult,		
"Active list," (including Juvenile Transfers)	19,087	
Central Juvenile, "Active list,"	8,773	
Notices sent out for over-due books:		
Main Library—Postal cards, 7,264; letters, 609	7,873	
Juvenile Room—Postal cards, 1,704; letters, 86	1,790	
Branches—Postal cards, 3,327; letters, 364	3,691	
Books—Reserved Notices sent, Central, 4,966		
Branches, 1,422		
Reserve—Notice books not called for, Central, 398		
Branches, 122		
Books sent for by messenger, Central, 152		
Books secured by messenger, Central, 86		
Books secured by messenger, Branches, 76		

BRANCH READING ROOMS IN DETAIL.

NORTH

Books circulated—Adult, 43,595		
Juvenile, 27,246	Central, 72	70,913
Cards issued through Central		896
Total registration, "Active list," Adult, 6,309		
Juvenile, 3,572		9,881
Periodicals in Reading Room		20
Newspapers in Reading Room		14

WEST*

Books circulated—Adult, 24,144		
Juvenile, 6,276	Central, 193	*30,613
Cards issued through Central		94
Periodicals in Reading Room		19
Newspapers in Reading Room		9
*Ten months		

SOUTH

Books circulated—Adult, 70,462		
Juvenile, 31,951	Central, 295	102,708
Cards issued through Central		1,407
Total registration, "Active list," Adult, 5,150		
Juvenile, 3,552		8,702
Periodicals in Reading Room		24
Newspapers in Reading Room		16

APPENDIX C.

FORM OF LIBRARY STATISTICS

Compiled for the A. L. A. Committee on Library Administration

Annual report for the year ending December 31, 1933

Name of Library, New Bedford Free Public Library.

Name of Librarian, George H. Tripp.

City, New Bedford, Mass.

Population served, 110,056; (Assessors Estimate, April 1, 1933.)

Terms of use—

Free for lending.

Free for reference

Total number of agencies.

Consisting of—Central Library.

Branches, Three.

High School Library.

2 Junior High Schools.

29 Schools, (187 rooms in schools.)

6 Out-of-town schools, with 8 rooms.

2 Camps.

5 Continuation school classes.

1 Hospital.

Books lent to 25 other libraries.

Books borrowed of two libraries.

Number of days open during the year (Central library), 319

Hours open each week for lending (Central library), 72

Hours open each week for reading (Central library), 79

(Holidays and Sundays, open 7 hours for reading, except that

Library closed Sundays and Holidays during January — February 25, and Sundays and Holidays from May 14 through

November 26, 1933 and Christmas Day).

Total number of staff, 27

Total valuation of library property, \$850,000.

APPENDIX D.

BOOK TALKS

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Bedford, Mass.

1933

Edward T. Pierce, Jr. Revolt of the Masses	January 9
Henry B. Van Hoesen Tools of Learning.	January 16
Rev. William B. Geoghegan The Three Jameses.	January 23
Rev. Robert S. Moore Poetry and Life.	January 30
George H. Tripp "Oh That Mine Adversary had Written a Book." He has.	February 6
Rev. C. Donald Plomer India's Storm Center	February 13
Rev. H. B. Williams Looting the Treasury.	February 20
Oliver Prescott, Jr. "Sherman, Fighting Prophet", by Lloyd Lewis.	February 27
Frederic J. Hayford Earth Horizon	March 6
Rev. Leslie C. Greeley "Why so hot, little man." New books on Emerson.	March 13
Clarence E. Sherman "Emily Dickinson," by Martha D. Bianchi.	March 20
Rev. John H. Maddaford "Inheritance," by Phyllis Bentley	March 27

APPENDIX E.

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation		\$49,000.00
Salaries	\$35,395.69	
Wages	11,781.19	
Supplies	185.17	
Janitor's Supplies	109.08	
Repairs	120.24	
Furniture	30.50	
Lighting Branches	394.22	
Heating Branches	250.71	
Telephones	214.47	
Express and Carting	80.96	
Building miscellany	388.13	
Library miscellany	45.65	
	<hr/>	
	\$48,996.01	
Balance	3.99	
	<hr/>	
		\$49,000.00

KEMPTON FUND

Balance	\$36.47	
Receipts and Credits	9,340.94	
	<hr/>	
		\$9,377.41
Books	\$4,972.83	
Periodicals	1,445.37	
Binding Books	1,751.91	
Binding Periodicals	24.10	
Supplies	356.68	
Printing	395.30	
Library miscellany	65.05	
Express and transportation of books	160.52	
Postage	191.48	
Repairs	12.75	
	<hr/>	
	\$9,375.99	
Balance	1.42	
	<hr/>	
		\$9,377.41

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

SYLVIA ANN HOWLAND FUND

Balance	\$2.91	
Receipts and Credits	2,057.46	
	<hr/>	\$2,060.37
Books	740.51	
Periodicals	283.55	
Binding Books	471.63	
Binding Periodicals	28.00	
Supplies, Stationery, etc.	227.29	
Printing	183.95	
Postage	40.00	
Library miscellany	9.24	
Express and Carting	74.82	
	<hr/>	
	\$2,058.99	
Balance	1.38	
	<hr/>	\$2,060.37

GEORGE O. CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$21.09	
Receipts and Credits	343.55	
	<hr/>	\$364.65
Periodicals	\$35.00	
Binding Periodicals	18.02	
Printing	22.00	
Salaries	222.20	
	<hr/>	
	\$297.22	
Balance	67.43	
	<hr/>	\$364.65

JAMES B. CONGDON FUND

Balance	\$18.21	
Receipts and Credits	17.50	
	<hr/>	\$35.71
Books	\$8.14	
Printing	6.75	
Library miscellany	20.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$34.89	
Balance	.82	
	<hr/>	\$35.71

FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

21 p

CHARLES W. MORGAN FUND

Balance	\$5.49	
Receipts and Credits	35.00	
	<hr/>	\$40.49
Books	\$5.00	
Periodicals	3.00	
Printing	29.20	
	<hr/>	
	\$37.20	
Balance	3.29	
	<hr/>	\$40.49

CHARLES L. WOOD FUND

Balance	\$1.09	
Receipts and Credits	70.00	
	<hr/>	\$71.09
Books	\$19.28	
Periodicals	5.00	
Printing	44.75	
	<hr/>	
	\$69.03	
Balance	2.06	
	<hr/>	\$71.09

GEORGE HOWLAND, JR. FUND

Balance	\$7.10	
Receipts and Credits	56.00	
	<hr/>	\$63.10
Books	\$22.50	
Periodicals	25.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$47.50	
Balance	15.60	
	<hr/>	\$63.10

OLIVER CROCKER FUND

Balance	\$20.32	
Receipts and Credits	35.00	
	<hr/>	\$55.32
Salaries	\$55.32	
	<hr/>	\$55.32

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$35,673.21
Wages	11,781.19
Books	5,768.26
Periodicals	1,796.92
Binding Books	2,223.54
Binding Periodicals	70.12
Supplies, Stationery, etc.	769.14
Janitor's Supplies	109.08
Repairs	132.99
Lighting Branches	394.22
Heating Branches	250.71
Postage	231.48
Telephones	214.47
Express and Carting	316.30
Printing	681.95
Furniture	30.50
Library miscellany	139.94
Building miscellany	388.13
	<hr/>
	\$60,972.15

ANNUAL REPORT

Trustees of the Free Public Library

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN,

January 25, 1934.

Received, placed on file, and sent down for concurrence.

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk.

IN COMMON COUNCIL,

January 25, 1934.

Concurred.

RUTH G. HILTON,

Clerk.

Attest:

RODOLPHUS A. SWAN,

City Clerk.

